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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
----------117459 080127Z /12
R 031100Z NOV 77
FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT
TO AMEMB ROME IT
SECSTATE WASHDC 5747
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE IT
AMCONSUL GENOA IT
AMCONSUL MILAN IT
AMCONSUL PALERMO IT

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E.O. 11652: ----- TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON THE NAPLES DC AND COMPETITORS
SUMMARY - REMARKS OF NAPLES-AREA DC AND LAY PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE CONSULATE POINT TO CONTINUING DC FACTIONALISM AND ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES IN SPITE OF THE OBVIOUS POLITICAL NEED FOR NEW EFFORTS TO REJUVENATE AND UNIFY THE LOCAL PARTY. BOTH DC AND LAY PARTIES EVIDENCE INSECURITY IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE POLITICAL TESTS (AND PROFOUND DISAGREEMENT ON STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING PCI PRESSURE).

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG0923 C O N F I D E N T I A L
IN SPITE OF ACKNOWLEDGED DC LIMITATIONS, PARTY LEADERS REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT PCI FAILINGS IN CITY ADMINISTRATION WILL ERODE COMMUNIST POLITICAL SUPPORT. END SUMMARY
1. RECENT REMARKS TO CONOFF BY NAPLES AREA NON-COMMUNIST POLITICIAMS CONCERNING THE "STATE OF THE PARTIES" REVEAL CONTINUING D.C. AND LAY PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES AND A SENSE OF INSECURITY IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE POLITICAL TESTS. LOCAL DC AS WELL AS LAY PARTY LEADERS COMMENT THAT THE NAPLES "OPPOSITION EXPERIENCE" HAS
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NOT IMPROVED DC ORGANIZATION OR REDUCED TRADITIONAL FACTIONALISM. TYPICAL REMARKS OF REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL DC OFFICIALS INCLUDE LAMENTATIONS OVER LACK OF VIABLE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY OFFICES AND OF DEDICATED CADRES. ONE OFFICIAL SOMEWHAT OVERSTATED THE CASE IN COMMENTING THAT THE DC COULD SCARCELY FIND 2000 MEMBERS TO MAN NAPLES POLLING BOOTHS OR, FOR THAT MATTER, 80 CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL. HE TERMED THE PARTY ORGANIZATIONALLY MORIBUND IN

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NAPLES BUT QUALIFIED HIS STATEMENT BY NOTING THAT LOCAL DC STRENGTH
NEVER DEPENDED ON PIAZZA-LEVEL PARTY ORGANIZATION AND EVEN THE PCI
SUFFERS FROM ORGANIZATIONAL WEAKNESSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE NEAPOLITAN
POLITICAL AMBIANCE. ANOTHER LOCAL DC CHIEF CLAIMED THAT THE PARTY
WAS STRENGTHENING ITS STRUCTURE IN NAPLES PROVINCE AND EXPERIENCING

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RENEWED CITIZEN INTEREST IN PARTY ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT
THE "OPPOSITION EXPERIENCE" IN NAPLES ITSELF WAS NOT POSITIVE NOR
CONDUCIVE TO REJUVENATION.
2. DC FACTIONALISM HAS NOT DECREASED. IN FACT THERE ARE RUMORS OF
HEIGHTENED TENSION BETWEEN DOROTEI (READ GAVA) AND OTHER NAPLES DC
CURRENTS, THE OUTWARD MANIFESTATION OF WHICH MAY BE CHANGE OF DC
PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL SECRETARIES. FACTIONALISM AFFECTS PARTY
POLICY AND TACTICS VIS A VIS THE PCI-LED NAPLES CITY GOVERNMENT.
LOCAL DC TACTICIANS TALK OF VOTING AGAINST THE CITY BUDGET IN
FEBRUARY 1978 THUS FORCING THE ADMINISTRATION TO RESIGN OR POSSIBLY
SURVIVE WITH POLITICALLY ABHORRENT MSI VOTES. HOWEVER, THESE DC
TACTICIANS RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF FORGING A UNIFIED PARTY
POSITION AND FEAR THAT FACTIONAL RIVALRIES MAY RENDER IMPRACTICABLE
ANY EFFORT TO COORDINATE DC VOTES ON THE BUDGET QUESTION.
3. BOTH DC AND LAY PARTY OFFICIALS EXPRESS THE OPINION THAT LAY
PARTIES ARE INCREASINGLY SQUEEZED BETWEEN THE DC AND PCI;
CONSEQUENTLY THEY WILL FARE POORLY IN THE NEXT ELECTORAL TEST.
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A PSDI NAPLES CITY OFFICIAL, FOR EXAMPLE, OPINED TO CONOFF THAT
PSDI VOTERS WILL TURN TO THE DC WHEN CITY ELECTIONS ARE NEXT HELD.
THESE VOTES, ALONG WITH THOSE LOST BY THE MSI, SHOULD IMPROVE THE

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DC POSITION IN NAPLES BUT LEAVE IT ALONE TO FACE THE PCI INTERLOCUTOR
4. DC AND LAY PARTY OFFICIALS AGREE ON THE PROBLEM IF NOT THE
SOLUTION. IN CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA, WHERE THE GAVA-LED DC DEALT
THE PCI A DECISIVE SETBACK IN THE APRIL 1977 ELECTIONS, THE DC HAS
BEEN UNABLE TO CONVINCE OTHER PARTIES THAT THEIR (AS WELL AS DC)
INTEREST IS SERVED BY THE FORMATION OF A CENTER-LEFT ADMINISTRATION,
LESS PCI SUPPORT. AS A RESULT CASTELLAMMARE IS CURRENTLY WITHOUT
A CITY ADMINISTRATION.
5. PROJECTIONS OF ELECTORAL FORTUNES OF THE SMALLER PARTIES IN NAP-
LES ARE GLOOMY. PREVAILING VIEW IS THAT THE DC WOULD IMPROVE ITS
POSITION BECAUSE OF THIS AND ALSO BECAUSE OF THE PCI'S FAILINGS IN
THE CITY ADMINISTRATION. ANOTHER REASON FOR POSSIBLE DC GAINS IS
THAT THE PCI IS SUFFERING ORGANIZATIONALLY AS PARTY OFPICIALS TAKE
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. FINALLY, IT IS WORTH MENTION-
ING THAT WHILE PCI ELECTORAL GAINS IN THE PAST HAVE IN GOOD MEASURE

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BEEN RELATED TO STEADY ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND EFFECTIVENESS, DC PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN LESS DEPENDENT ON TIGHT ORGANIZATION AND FACTIONAL UNITY. COLANTONIO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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